



STATE OF CONNECTICUT • COUNTY OF TOLLAND
INCORPORATED 1786

TOWN OF ELLINGTON

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ROBERT J. CLEMENTS
Chairman

BOARD OF FINANCE BOARD OF SELECTMEN BUDGET HEARING MINUTES TUESDAY, MARCH 23, 2010

RICHARD J. CLEARY
MARK A. JOYSE
BARRY C. PINTO
MICHAEL D. VARNEY
JOSEPH E. WEHR

Members Present: R. Clements-Chairman, M. Joyse, B. Pinto, M. Varney, J. Wehr

Members Absent: R. Cleary

Others Present: M. Blanchette-First Selectman, Selectmen Burstein, Miller, Turner, Prichard, Spielman, G. Fetko-DPW Director, P. Hany-Pres. EVAC, Sgt. Konieczny, D. Davis-Emergency Management, N. DiCorleto-Finance Officer, Resident R. Neal, JI Reporter.

Call to Order

Chairman Robert Clements called the hearing to order at 7:35 PM.

Opening Statement

Chairman Clements informed the Board that he, the Finance Officer and the First Selectman met to review the revenues for the upcoming fiscal year. Based on the budget as submitted, the mill rate increase would be .8 mills. The town is in a better position at this point in the budget process than surrounding towns.

Citizen's Forum – None

Budget Hearing Board of Selectmen FY 2010-2011

First Selectman Maurice Blanchette presented this budget. He stated that the department heads paid close attention to the guidelines instructed by the Board of Finance. This budget maintains services and does not add new services. This budget does not include Boards and Commissions, Hall Memorial Library, Fire Depts. or Ambulance Corps or Board of Education. Salary increases of 3.25% for unionized employees are included in each department's budget. The salary adjustment account recognizes nonunionized employee raises of 3.25%. All cell phones are being accounted for in the 810 budget. The debt service budget is up \$113,000 due to

equipment purchases and Farm Preservation purchases. This budget does not support infrastructure which may fall behind.

General Government

110 Board of Selectmen – decrease is due to First Selectman's salary being reduced to the same level as this current year.

130 Finance Officer – 1.10% increase.

140 Town Clerk – this budget decrease is due to licenses being purchased on line and volumes being down so there is not as much owed to the State of Connecticut in fees.

Public Safety

321 – Public Fire Protection – this account increased due to 20 anticipated new hydrants being installed in the Ellington Acres water area that was purchased by Conn Water Co. Currently there are only three in the area.

322 – Emergency 911 increase is due to population.

330 – Police Special Duty. This account gets reimbursed by contractors fees paid.

350 – Emergency Management's 46% increase is due to 3 new blackberry cell phones and 4 air cards. It also includes \$5,000 for Everbridge Emergency Notification System. This system contacts emergency personnel and residents in the event of an emergency notification. This is the cost through a state contract and would be much more expensive if purchased independently.

Public Works

410 – General Town Roads increased 5.01% due to wage increases and promotions.

420 – Equipment maintenance increase is due to fuel costs.

435 – Grounds Maintenance stayed the same as this year. This year's was increased for the installation of the main at Brookside Park for the sprinkler system.

439 – Winter Maintenance is no increase and on target for this year. The Public Works Director stated that although we did not have volumes of snow, we did have to treat the roads quite often for deicing because of the length of the storms. Mr. Pinto asked about the Clear Lane. Mr. Fetko stated that it is treated salt that melts snow down to 5 degrees.

450 – Sanitary Landfill decreased due to single stream recycling, the rebates we have received from CRRA as well as being offset by the increase in recycling.

451 – Municipal Solid Waste – This is the account that gets reimbursed by the user fee.

455 – Recycling account increased due to it being underfunded for a few years.

456 – HHW increase due to fixed costs from MDC being increased as well as usage by town residents.

460 - WPCA Budget is fully reimbursed.

470 – Street lighting is no increase. The Public Works Director was asked if LED lighting was anticipated for the streetlights. He stated that they are not yet available due to the climate in this area of the country. He stated that the light from LED's may be too bright for street lights as they are working to keep the light in a downward direction.

480 – Engineering increased 40% due to the fact that it is underfunded each year. The budgeted figure is a 3 year average for general engineering for land use commissions and work done for Public Works.

Cultural Arts and Recreation

585 – CL Water Monitoring budget is for the Milfoil Removal. This budget would complete the removal. Mr. Turner stated that after 2010-11, the budget would be decreasing and become a maintenance item only.

Human Services

770 – North Central Health is a per person charge.

795 – Senior Center increase is due to additional hours for the Asst. Director from part time to full time.

Town Properties

810 – Town Hall increase is due to cell phones from all departments being accounted for in the 810 accounts. Another large increase is in the 810-250 account. It has consistently been over budget and this increase is to bring it in line with the actuals. Mr. Joyse asked Mr. DiCorleto for the detail for the “Other” listed in the narrative for this account. There is also an item for new vault shelving for \$14,000 which will be funded from the Marshall Charter Fund.

850 – Pinney House. Mr. Clements stated that the Board of Finance has been against putting any town money into this house. Mr. DiCorleto stated that a budget of \$8,000 was put in as a place holder for heating fuel, electricity, etc. Selectman Spielman felt that the only thing to be done is to keep the pipes from freezing. They felt the building did not even need to be heated. A dehumidifier should probably run in the summer to keep the mold from coming back.

860 – Old Crystal Lake Schoolhouse – Mr. Clements felt that this project is a long term commitment to the people in Crystal Lake. Mr. Fetko stated that after this budget is approved, the project will go out to bid and be completed.

Debt Service – The principal increases as the interest decreases.

Fixed Charges

950 – Insurance increased. Mr. Miller asked that the Board of Finance reduce the insurance budget by \$61,000.

Miscellaneous

1025 – Ad Hoc Graduation Committee has asked for \$5,000 and the Board of Selectmen cut it back to \$3,000. Mr. Clements felt that the Town should not fund this at all. There is a grant that the Town received for drug and alcohol prevention and he feels that these funds could be available for this.

1045 – GASB-OPED – This is funding for future liabilities for employee benefits.

1050 – Referendum/Primaries. This account covers six referenda and primaries.

1065 – Salary adjustment account is for salary increases for nonunionized employees.

1075 – Town Communications. This is for the Ellington Connection. The Board of Education has asked for space in this newsletter.

1085 – Grant Applications. This account enables the Board of Selectmen to apply for Small Cities Grants. Mr. Blanchette stated that department heads currently apply for any grants they find out about. He stated that CCM gives the town a lot of information in this regard. Board members felt that the town should look into what other towns do to facilitate grant writing.

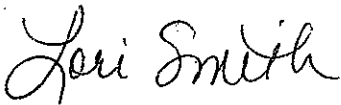
There is a new Ad Hoc Patriotic Committee that was started by the Board of Selectmen to coordinate the activities of patriotic events. The money in this budget is for grave markers, recording of the meetings, and any special events they may want to do.

In conclusion, the overall budget increase for general government is 2.96%.

Mr. DiCorleto told the Board that the Town Charter states that the first deliberation has to be the Thursday after the Public Hearing on the budget. The public hearing is scheduled for April 13 and therefore the deliberation has to be rescheduled from April 20 to the 15th. This was fine with the members. The deliberation for the 27th will remain as scheduled.

**MOTION (PINTO) SECONDED (WEHR) AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY TO
ADJOURN THE HEARING AT 9:20 PM.**

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Lori Smith".

Lori Smith, Recording Clerk